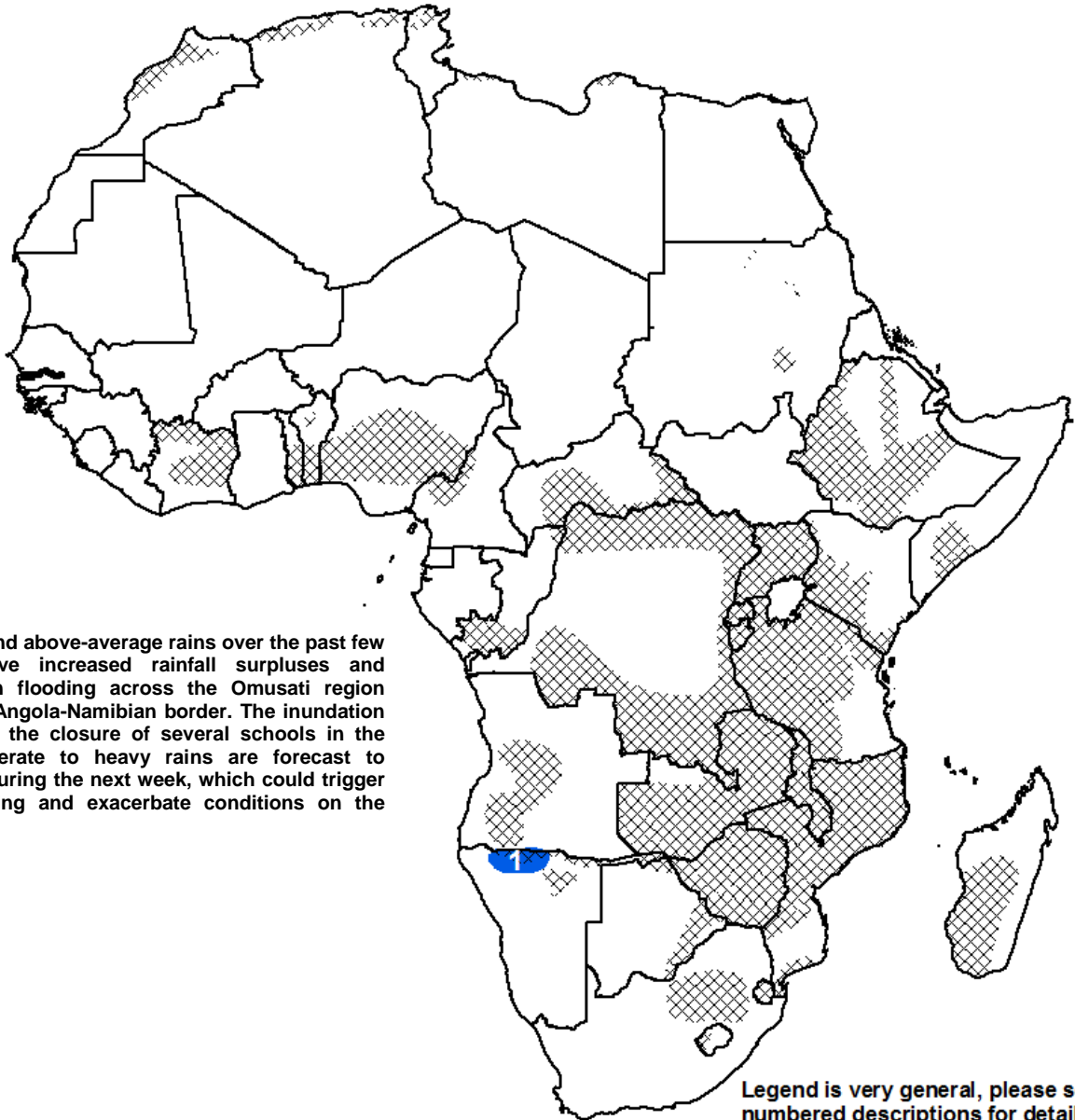




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook March 27 – April 2, 2014

- A decrease in rainfall has been recorded over Southern Africa during the past week.
- A favorable start of the March-May season has been observed over the Greater Horn of Africa.



1) Heavy and above-average rains over the past few weeks have increased rainfall surpluses and resulted in flooding across the Omusati region along the Angola-Namibian border. The inundation has led to the closure of several schools in the area. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week, which could trigger new flooding and exacerbate conditions on the ground.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

XXXX	March Cropped Areas
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Red	Abnormal Heat

Decreased rains observed in eastern Southern Africa.

During mid-March, a significant decrease in rainfall was observed over the southern and eastern parts of Africa. Suppressed to little (< 10 mm) rains fell throughout southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, South Africa, the southern two-thirds of Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar. Though, heavy rains poured across southern Angola and northern Namibia during the past week (Figure 1). While the increase in rainfall over the past few weeks was beneficial to agricultural and pastoral activities over the western portions of Southern Africa, the excessive and stagnant water has posed a threat for infrastructure over many local areas. Conversely, decreased rains over the past two to three weeks have helped to relieve wetness over the central and eastern parts of the region, including southern Zimbabwe, north-central South Africa, and portions of Mozambique. The recent abatement in rainfall may announce the demise of the rainy season across the southern portions of Southern Africa.

An analysis of the time series of rainfall from the Global Telecommunication Systems (GTS) over Johannesburg of South Africa over the past thirty days showed wet spells, with frequent and heavy rainfall, falling from late February to early March followed by a drier period, with suppressed rains onward (Figure 2). The reduction in rainfall during the past two weeks has helped to neutralize rainfall surpluses and relieve recent wetness, which has resulted in fatalities, damaged infrastructure, and affected people over the Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West, and Limpopo regions of South Africa. As for the vegetation conditions, recent remote-sensing Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly indicated neutral to positive anomalies throughout much of Southern Africa. During the next outlook period, reduced rainfall, with light to no rains are expected to continue over the central and eastern parts of Southern Africa, whereas moderate to heavy rains are forecast over northwestern Namibia, southwestern Angola, southern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, and southern Tanzania.

Favorable moisture conditions were observed in Eastern Africa.

Over the past thirty days, Eastern Africa has received average to above-average rainfall, with surpluses exceeding 50 mm over western Ethiopia, Kenya, localized areas of southern Somalia, and southwestern South Sudan (Figure 3). The observed positive anomalies were associated with frequent and enhanced rains during the early period of the second dekad (10-day period) of the current month. This has helped to eliminate early-season deficits over many local areas of the region. Light to locally moderate and slightly below-average rains were, however, observed over the region during the past week. During the next outlook period, good rains are expected to return, with widespread, moderate to heavy rains over central Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania. Light to moderate rains are forecast over Kenya. The forecast rains should help to replenish and provide adequate moisture in the region.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

